

Judge Silas Lee House  
West side of High Street at the  
southwest corner of the Common  
Wiscasset  
Lincoln County  
Maine

HABS No. ME-101

HABS  
ME  
8-WISC  
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## JUDGE SILAS LEE HOUSE

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Address: West side of High Street at the southwest corner of the Common, Wiscasset, Lincoln County, Maine.

Present Owner and Occupant: Mrs. Lowndes.

Present Use: Dwelling.

Brief Statement of Significance: This house is one of the finest examples of late 18th century architecture in Maine, and was the home of several prominent people.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

1792-1807 Silas Lee, lawyer, judge and congressman from the Massachusetts eastern district.

1807-1831 General David Payson who purchased the house from Lee. House occupied by General Payson and his daughter Clarissa and son-in-law Major Samuel Lane Page.

1831-1836 Theophilus and Isaac Dow who operated a tavern with a boarding house and dancing school in the house which was called "The Bunch of Grapes."

1836 Sold to Samuel E. Smith who was governor of Maine 1831-1834. The house has remained in the Smith family, and the present owner is a great-granddaughter of Governor Smith.

## 2. Date of erection: 1792.

3. Original plans, construction, etc.: Samuel E. Green, Exhibition of Maine Architecture from the 17th Century to the Civil War, compares the portico of this house with plates from William Pain, Practical Builder, first American edition, Boston, 1792.

4. Sources of information: Fannie S. Chase, Wiscasset in Pownalborough (Wiscasset, Maine, 1941). pp. 195-197, 554-555.

Federal Writers' Project, Maine, A Guide "Down East" (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1937), pp. 218-219.

Samuel M. Green, Exhibition of Maine Architecture from the 17th Century to the Civil War (Catalog of an exhibit arranged by The Art Department of Colby College, Waterville, Maine, 1945).

William Davis Patterson, Old Wiscasset, revised by J. B. Doggett (Augusta, Maine: The Augusta Press, 1951).

Prepared by James M. Replogle, Architect  
and Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
1960, and August 1962.

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## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is one of the finest examples of late 18th century architecture in Maine, with especially elegant detail on the facade and entrance porch.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Size, rectangular, two story, five-bay front, medium-sized house, facing east.

2. Foundations: Large blocks of granite.

3. Wall construction: Brick end walls, frame front with smooth siding about 8" wide with horizontal V joints. Flat, Ionic, colossal pilasters set in slightly from the corners.

4. Porches, stoops: Semicircular entrance porch with smooth, round Ionic columns, full entablature with modillion cornice, denticulated bed mold, and ornamented frieze. Granite floor up three steps.

5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys in north end wall, one in south wall.

#### 6. Openings:

a. Doors and doorways: Six-panel door, raised panels. Recessed doorway with molded jambs; double molded, mitered architraves.

b. Windows and shutters: Double hung windows, six-light sash, molded frames, fixed louvered shutters.

#### 7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Low hip roof with lattice-work balustrade on very low monitor. Asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice: Modillion cornice, denticulated bed mold.

c. Site:

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1. General setting and orientation: Faces east on a level, 12-  
medium-sized lot in a residential section of a small town; house is  
set back from the street about 50'.

2. Landscaping: Informal yard with lawn, trees, shrubs,  
and flowers.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
August 1962.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Data pages 1 through 3 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 4.

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LC-HABS-GS07-21L \*

FRONT ELEVATION

LC-HABS-GS07-21R

FRONT ELEVATION

Left and right overlap: 75%

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

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**HOUSE**  
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**Data (Page 5)**

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